

19 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 19 March 1979

The Director chaired the meeting. [REDACTED]

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Lehman briefed on the major Soviet field and command post exercises in the eastern part of the Soviet Union and Mongolia that is focusing on the Transbaykal Military District and Mongolia. He mentioned that NFAC is aware of the location of the bases for the transport flights, but where equipment is to be dropped remains unknown. Lehman speculated that the exercise is geared toward a possible Chinese threat. Noting the difficulty in reporting on this subject because of the piecemeal information available, the Director urged Hicks to have NFAC try to include a general sense of the entire exercise in its reporting.

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

McMahon noted receipt of a call from Sam Hoskinson saying that IOB Chairman Farmer will be requesting a briefing on 22 March on sensitive collection operations. Noting that such briefings have been given previously, the Director wondered how many times it would be required to repeat the same. [REDACTED]

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Taylor mentioned that there would be an SSCI briefing on the CIA budget today. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 25X1

Hicks advised that the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping awarded OGCR a blue ribbon for its atlas on the polar regions. [REDACTED]

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[ ] reported that the [ ] ground station was out of operation for 24 hours at the end of the week. He noted that the emergency power was insufficient for it to continue operations. [ ]

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Alluding to a press item about an FOIA request from the Church of Scientology (attached), Mr. Carlucci asked [ ] to provide him details in anticipation of possible questions this afternoon. Hetu said he saw the package before it was released, and the Agency apparently did consider designing an electronic device to shock enemy agents into submission. (Action: OLC) [ ]

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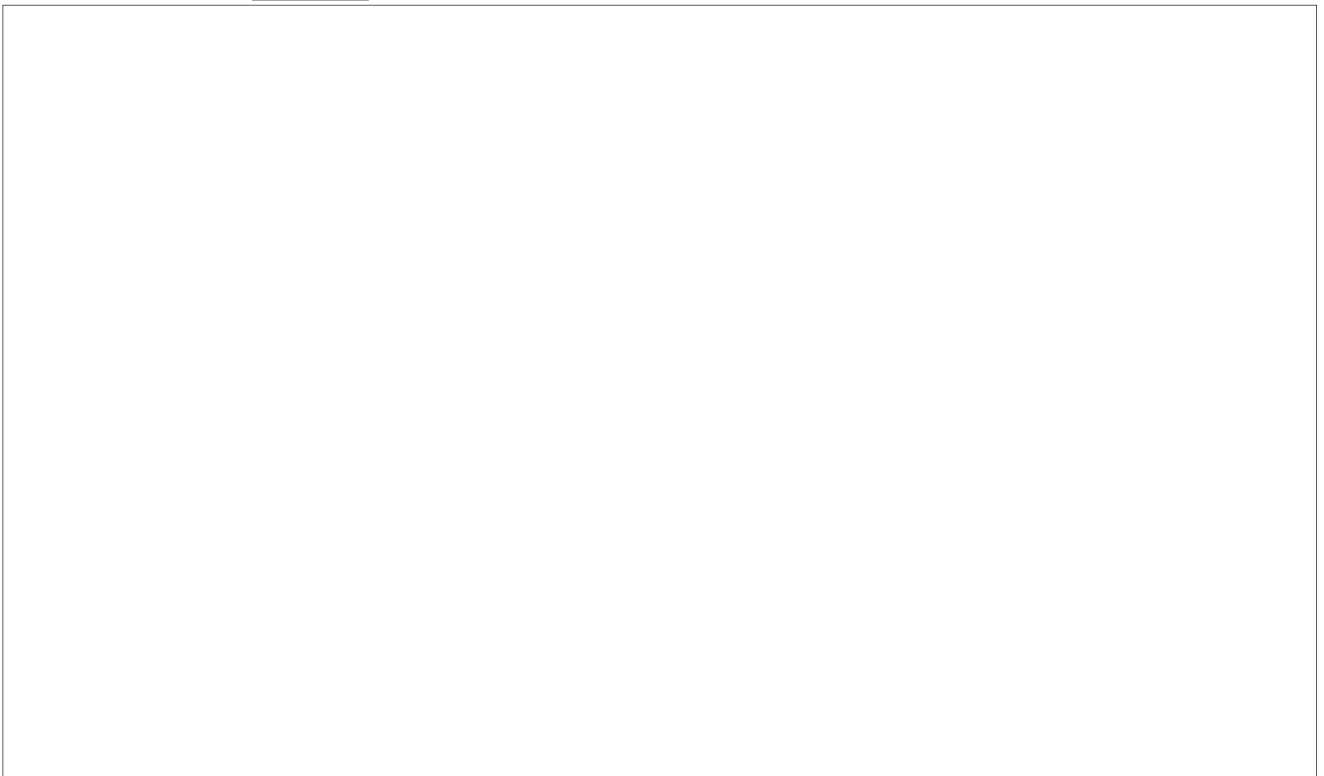
Alluding to an item in today's State Summary that Moscow was annoyed by the PDRY invasion of the YAR, the Director suggested that NFAC may want to analyze this possibility further. The Director also suggested that the status of Salih should be monitored carefully. (Action: NFAC) [ ]

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Noting recent UPI reports that the Soviet navy was off the coast of Vietnam, the Director asked that these developments be monitored closely. (Action: NFAC) [ ]

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BY STEWART KELLERMAN

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CIA EXPERIMENTERS IN SEARCH OF OFFBEAT WEAPONS DESIGNED AN ELECTRIC NET TO SHOCK ENEMY AGENTS INTO SUBMISSION AND SET OFF EXPLOSIONS NEAR CARS TO DEVELOP A BETTER BLACKJACK, IT WAS DISCLOSED SUNDAY.

THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S RESEARCHERS ALSO PROPOSED SUBJECTING MONKEYS TO BLINDING FLASHES OF LIGHT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A NON-LETHAL WEAPON TO STUN ENEMY AGENTS.

THE EXPERIMENTS WERE REVEALED IN CIA DOCUMENTS MADE PUBLIC THROUGH A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST BY AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT -- A GROUP SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY.

A DEC. 31, 1970, MEMORANDUM SAID "THE PRINCIPLE OF CONTROLLED ELECTROSHOCK CAN OFFER AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE PERSONNEL INCAPACITATION PROBLEM."

THE MATTER-OF-FACT LANGUAGE DESCRIBED A REPORT THAT AN ELECTRIC NET SENDING FIVE SHOCKS A SECOND INTO THE ARMS OF AN ENEMY AGENT COULD CAUSE PAIN BUT NOT KILL HEALTHY PEOPLE.

"SUCH A RESULT SEEMS REASONABLE, BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE THE REPORT OF THIS EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE," THE MEMO SAID.

THE NOTE CALLED FOR "EXTENSIVE FIELD TEST RESULTS OF THE SYSTEM" DESPITE THE DANGER OF FATAL HEART ATTACKS IN "ELECTRICALLY SENSITIVE" SUBJECTS. "OUR ENGINEERING STAFF HAS ROUGHED OUT A CIRCUIT DIAGRAM FOR A UNIT," IT SAID.

AN UNDATED, BARELY LEGIBLE MEMO SUGGESTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "FLASH BLINDNESS INCAPACITATION" DEVICE TO CREATE "DISORIENTATION, CONFUSION AND IMPAIRED VISION."

THE NOTE PROPOSED "SOPHISTICATED PRIMATE STUDIES" TO DISCOVER "THE FUNCTIONAL DAMAGE THRESHOLD" AND "MEASURE OF PERFORMANCE DECREASE" CAUSED BY THE BLINDNESS DEVICE.

IT FAILED TO MENTION WHETHER ANIMAL TESTS EVER TOOK PLACE, BUT A SERIES OF VAGUELY WORDED DIRECTIVES RELEASED UNDER THE SAME FOI REQUEST TOLD OF THE ALLOCATION OF CIA FUNDS FOR UNIDENTIFIED EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS.

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ANOTHER UNDATED MEMO CALLED FOR FUNDS TO FINANCE 12 MONTHS OF EXPERIMENTS BEGINNING FEB. 1, 1956, INTO "THE MECHANISM OF BRAIN CONCUSSION."

THE NOTE REPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LABORATORY WITH A BLAST RANGE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. "IMPACT TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ON THREE CADAVERS TO DATE," IT SAID.

THE MEMO SAID THE AIM OF THE EXPERIMENTS WAS TO DEVELOP A WEAPON SUCH AS AN AIR GUN, EXPLOSIVE PAD OR BLACKJACK "TO INDUCE BRAIN CONCUSSION WITHOUT GIVING EITHER ADVANCE WARNING OR CAUSING EXTERNAL PHYSICAL TRAUMA."

THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY, A CONTROVERSIAL RELIGION THAT BEGAN IN 1950 AS A RADICAL APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH, HAS BEEN PUBLICIZING SENSITIVE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AS PART OF A RUNNING BATTLE WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

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